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From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420
PHONE: 315 369-3838

Open House Invitation December 7, 2003 1-3 PM

The tradition of holding our open house the first Sunday in December will continue again in 2003. We invite members and guests to visit the Goodsell Memorial Museum between the hours of 1 and 3 PM. This is a time to enjoy refreshments and conversations with your neighbors, friends, and fellow history enthusiasts.

Exhibits

The subject of our newest exhibit which will be ready by December 1, 2003, is a re-creation of Teich's Old Trading Post. We hope many of you remember Teich's Old Trading Post and invite you to visit the Museum, share your stories, and enjoy the many artifacts from Teich's.



**Frank Teich
Teich's Trading Post**

For those who never heard of Teich's, it was an interesting wooden building with a stockade-looking façade located in Eagle Bay. Owned and operated by Frank Teich, the Trading Post started as a bar 1919. One step inside the door and you were among a vast eclectic collection of mounted heads, animal hides, stuffed animals, posters, signs, paintings, prints and photos. As his business and collection grew, he added a dance floor and restaurant. This unique Adirondack landmark continued until 1971 when Frank Teich retired.

Letter from the Director

The 4th Annual Postcard-Paper-Bottle Show and sale on Saturday, August 2nd at the Municipal Building on Park Avenue in Old Forge was a huge success with twenty dealers and increased attendance.

In September, I attended the New Directors Institute hosted by Upstate History Alliance at The Sagamore in Raquette Lake. I was one of 21 other "new directors" at this 4-day intense training made possible in part by support from the New York State Council of the Arts. Speakers from many areas of administration were available for one-on-one consultations before and after the training sessions.

The first printing of "Old Forge-Gateway to the Adirondacks" has almost sold out and a second printing has been ordered. The Historical Association has received its first royalty check.

The Board of Trustees has completed the first program of a three step grant process to move the organization forward. This grant is sponsored by New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Upstate History Alliance which assists organizations in long-term planning.

So much to do as our organization continues to grow.

Gail Murray

Coming Events

December 7, 2003—Holiday Open-House 1-3 PM
Goodsell Museum—Refreshments served. Our new exhibits will be in place.

May 22 —July 4, 2004—Traveling Exhibit at the Arts Center/Old Forge. Visit the Roseneau Gallery and view items from our collections showing the Four Seasons of the Adirondack and the beauty of the Adirondacks that has attracted people to the mountains all seasons.

June 19, 2004—Benefit Auction Preview 9-11 AM
Bidding starts promptly at 11 AM. Antiques, vintage, Adirondack, new and nearly new items—something for everyone. Donation items will be accepted year-round

July 14, 2004—Victorian Party on the Porch—
Fundraiser-Social Event open to members and non-members. Reservations required. Your donation of \$15 includes appetizers, light dinner and beverage. Limit 50.

July and August—Historic Walking Tours—places, times and dates to be announced. Led by Town Historian, Peg Masters.

August 7, 2004—Postcard, Paper and Bottle Show and Sale—183 Park Avenue, Municipal Building, Old Forge.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.webbhistory.org
email
director@webbhistory.org

Memorials since January 2003

In memory of **Adam Kreuter II**, Sheila Kreuter; In memory of **Albert J. Dorris**, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Vekasy; In memory of **Art Eyre Sr. and Louise Eyre**, Ms. Jane Eyre; In memory of **Charles E. Wilcox**, Roy Duane Wilcox; In memory of **Dad (Donald R. Russell)**, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Russell; In memory of **Dr. Robert Lindsay Sr.**, Dr. Richard Lindsay; In memory of **Edgar Nadeau**, Mr. & Mrs. Omer Hudon, Mr. & Mrs. J. Claude LeCours; In memory of Edward and Alice Burkin, Ms. Joan Seiffer; In memory of **Evelyn Russell**, Mrs. Jane S. Ducatt; In memory of **Freda Westfall**, Mrs. Diane Ritz; In memory of **Grace Findlay**, Ms. Grace Mendrick; In memory of **Howard Chaffee**, Mrs. Dorothea Chaffee; In memory of **Jack and John Chaffee**, Mrs. Eileen Chaffee-Schultz; In memory of **Robert and Anne Coffey**, Rosemary Coffey; In memory of **Robert P. Fedder**, Ms. Janet B. Fedder, In memory of **The Egan Family**, Mrs. Mary Jane York; In memory of Warren Scheidelman, Donald R. Russell, Kit Ehrensbeck, Ms. Sarah Cohen; In memory of **Bette W. Palmer**, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Palmer, In memory of **Tom Bernatchez**, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hannah; In memory of **Donald R. Russell**, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Boylan, Mark Kavouksorian, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Stripp, Stanley Wheeler, Mr. & Mrs. Mike DeLouisa, Frances Burnett, Edie Cornish and Family, Mrs. Margaret Ernenwein, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Schweinsberg, Ms. Sharon York, Old Forge Fire Dept. Auxiliary; In memory of **Kit Ehrensbeck and Donald R. Russell**, Ms. Linda Cohen; In memory of **Bertha Dunn**, Jeanne Taylor; In memory of **Charles Russell**, Peg Murtah; In memory of **Christine Doggett**, Nick Weaver; In memory of **L. C. Howell**, Elizabeth Howell; In memory of **Dot and Ken Rivette**, Virginia Gross; In memory of **Elbert Harris**, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Fox; In memory of **Harold Hollister**, Ron & Jill Hollister; In memory of **Harry Marvin II**, Muriel Marvin; In memory of **James Evans**, Mary Evans; In memory of **Joel and Estella Potter**, Joyce P. Hall; In memory of **John Watkins**, Virginia Milton; In memory of **Kit Ehrensbeck**, Fred & Judy Ehrensbeck, The Robert Pullings; In memory of **Laurel Johnston**, Phillip J. Hardy; In memory of **Leroy W. Deis**, Robert & Terry Lehnen, Dorotha Una Deis; In memory of **Tina and Myron Wolfe**, the Edward Nathans, In memory of **Robert T. Searing Jr.**, Mrs. Robert T. Searing, Jr.; In memory of **Bob O'Connor**, the Robert Pullings; In memory of **Larry Payne**, Philip J. Hardy; In memory of **The Lockwood Family**, the Donald Lawsons; In memory of **Marie VanderVeer**, Edgar VanderVeer; In memory of **Marion Holmes**, John and Margaret Hopsicker; In memory of **Robert Dowling**, Charles W. Rowlee; In memory of **Norman Nathan**, the Edward Nathans; In memory of **Burton N. Deis**, Dorotha Una Deis, In memory of **Mary Elizabeth Weidman**, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick McCann. In memory of **A. Richard Cohen**, George Villiere, In memory of **Ingeborg E. Mather**, Donald Mather, and In memory of **David Gray**, Mrs. Elizabeth Gray.

Weedmark Family Legacy—by Town of Webb Historian Peg Masters

Four years ago in September of 1999, local photographer William Porter (Bill) Weedmark passed away at the age of seventy-one. He was born in Ilion, NY in 1927 - the first and only child of William H. and Marion Porter Weedmark. Two years after Bill's birth, when his mother died of pulmonary and kidney disease, his grief-stricken father brought the toddler to Old Forge to be raised by his grandparents Archibald William "Pop" and Mary Ellen Weedmark. A self-described "spirited lad," Bill none-the-less excelled at school and graduated in 1946 valedictorian of his class.

Bill loved to listen to his grandparents' stories of the pioneer settlement of the Old Forge region. "Pop" Weedmark, was born in 1864 in Ontario, came to the States at the age of 14, and settled eventually in Lyons Falls. For a time he worked at the tannery at the Moose River Settlement, then got a job on a log drive down the river but nearly drowned. In September of 1891, he married Mary Ellen MacDougall in Lyons Falls and they traveled to Old Forge by buckboard on the ol' Brown's Tract Road to begin their married life. The newlyweds obtained work "winter sitting" Dr. Niccolls Camp on the point between First and Second Lakes and survived on hard tack and beans. For the next several years they lived at the Soper Camp on First Lake. In 1895 they purchased one of the Garmon & Crosby lots on Adams Street for \$150. The Weedmarks built a home in 1896 over a hand-dug stone foundation to shelter their growing family that included three sons; William H. born in 1894, John E. born in 1896, and Harry W. born in 1899.



Last of the Brown's Tract Guides Archibald William Weedmark in the front of the guideboat.

Bill's grandmother Mary took in washing and ironing to supplement her husband's guiding fees. A woodstove kept the family warm and was used for cooking their food and heating the wash water. Mary died in 1946, the same year her grandson graduated from high school. Bill's talent and passion for taking and developing photographs began early in the 1940's

while he was still a student. Grandpa "Pop" Weedmark continued to work as a guide and caretaker for the Soper family and at the Ely Camp at Little Moose Lake. He was a lifelong member of the North Woods Lodge 849, F & AM, and one of the early members of the Old Forge Fire Department. "Pop" died in 1980 at his home on Adams Street at the age of 95. He was the last surviving member of the Brown's Tract Guides Association that organized in 1898.

After graduation, Bill worked for the Town of Webb, married Naomi Joy in 1955, and operated a photography studio out of his grandparents' home on Adams Street. At the time of his death in 1999, thousands of photographs and negatives were tucked into bureau and desk drawers, cabinets and assorted boxes in an order known only to him. His two sons, Bill and John, decided to donate the extensive collection to the Town of Webb Historical Association.

Dedicated volunteers have spent scores of hours since that time cataloging the collection and developing a computerized index. More than fifty years of our Town's history are pictorially documented in Bill's photographs. His camera shutter was clicking in 1946 at the Decoration Day Parade on Main Street, at the 1947 Winter Carnival when Max Boli was giving ski lessons and that same year at the collapse of the McKeever dam. He was there at the Charbonneau family reunion in 1949 and the Barrett family reunion of the Bald Mountain House in 1992. Bill time-capsuled for future generations - photographs of the construction of a ski jump in 1953, the deCamp (Harrison) estate auction in 1954, the WWI veterans dinner at the American Legion in 1955, the auction of Hollywood Hills properties in 1962 - and hundreds of other events, people and places in our township.

For years he did the photographic work for the Town of Webb school yearbooks. Bill was the photographer of choice by more than 200 brides - some even planned their wedding dates around his availability. He had a passion for aerial photography - survived a float plane plunge into the Old Forge Pond in the 1950s and escaped with a fractured jaw that kept his mouth wired shut for weeks. The spectacular pictures from the air include the hamlets in Webb, the hotels along the Fulton Chain of Lakes, the building of the Enchanted Forest, the Old Forge Airport, and the McCauley Mt. ski area.

Bill Weedmark served for many years as a Trustee of the Historical Association and was gifted with an incredible sense of humor as well as his photographic talent. He will not be forgotten. The history of this pioneer family and legacy of his photographic collection helps us to better understand our past and share our unique heritage with many generations to come. Today, the collection is protected and housed in archival storage folders and boxes at the Historical. More work is needed to identify and date the photographs, a project coordinated by Trustee Harry Kellogg. Contact the Historical Association, 369-3838, if you have a few hours a month to contribute to this important work.

Dollars and Sense

GIFTS OF STOCK

We would like to give special thanks to Marge Bonnett, a long-time supporter and friend of the Historical Association. She has generously given several shares of stock to the organization to help in its efforts of collecting, documenting, and educating.

GRANTS

The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation has recently awarded the Town of Webb Historical Association a \$700 Grant to be used towards the purchase of a digital camera. This camera will enable us to document all artifacts in our collection, to use in connection with our new computer program Past Perfect, as well as many other tasks.

The Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for year-round residents of the Adirondack Park. To find out more about the foundation visit www.Pearsallfoundation.org. We thank them for their support.

PAST PERFECT PROGRAM

The purchase of our Past Perfect computer program was made possible due to the designated gift of money from Ben and Lorraine Alexander and the Roseneau Foundation. Many thanks!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It is never too late to send in your membership renewal. We can continue our valuable work only by the generosity of others and your support of our mission.

If you are uncertain of your membership status, please give us a call or email at 315-369-3838 or director@webbhistory.org.

Benefit Auction

The Town of Webb Historical Association is planning to hold our second BENEFIT AUCTION on Saturday, June 19, 2003. Once again, we are seeking a wide variety of good quality items to be donated from our members and the public. Antiques and Adirondack items are especially sought, but we will accept most anything in good condition. If you can help, please call for a pick-up or bring in your item to the Goodsell Memorial Museum.

Wish List

The Goodsell Memorial Museum received two items from the wish list over the summer. A big thank you to the DeBevoise Family for the donation of a cordless telephone and answering machine and to Bob Kennerknecht for the paper shredder. New items on our wish list are sturdy metal storage cabinets, tables, and sturdy metal shelving units. Two books that are needed for reference are "Changing Times in the Adirondacks" by Norton Bus Bird and "An Adirondack Passage-The Cruise of the Canoe *Sairy Gamp*" by Christine Jerome.

Please contact the director if you can help.

Hemmer Cottage Update

Many of the improvements in the summer of 2003 were accomplished thanks to an Adirondack North Country Community Enhancement Project (ANCCEP) Grant awarded to the Town of Webb Historical Association. The \$25,000 grant was used to make landscape and parking improvements at Hemmer Cottage, and to fund new sidewalks at the Goodsell Memorial Museum on Main Street.

Fundraising for the Hemmer project is ongoing. You can help in many ways. The Architecture Preservation Committee is soliciting funds to support the paver project, tree and landscaping project and the newest offer of a poster printed from an original Bernard Hemmer oil painting from the collection of the Arts Center/Old Forge. Only 250 prints are available. The price is \$54.13 which included tax, shipping would be extra. For information, contact the Director.